

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** Claims 1 and 8 and **ENTER** amended Claims 1 and 8 in place thereof:

C¹ 1. (Twice amended) A purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 85% total sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof, said polypeptide possessing the ability to allow transmembrane potassium ion flow and/or transport.

8. (Twice amended) A method for producing cells which express a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 85% total sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:3, or a fragment thereof, said polypeptide possessing the ability to allow transmembrane potassium ion flow and/or transport, said method comprising:

- C²
- a) transforming suitable host cells with a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 85% total sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof, said polypeptide possessing the ability to allow transmembrane potassium ion flow and/or transport; and,
 - b) selecting cells expressing the polypeptide encoded by the introduced nucleic acid.